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Too often is the itinerant ignored. He comes and he leaves, but in his brief stay he is invariably observant. He sees the faults and virtues of a community almost at once; the natives, the people who have lived their lives within a well delineated square become inane, they accept traditional belief with concern that is maddening and often will they promulgate the impossible, rather than submit to his prognostication. It requires but study to appreciate the logic of the wanderer's argument. True, he is a man without a home, he can rightfully claim no community aside from the place of his birth, but he has had opportunity to benefit by the mistakes of the many. In knocking around, so to speak, from country to country, from state to state, from city to city; he observes the causes of a city's progress or retrogression. At times he materializes opportunely and is enabled to prevent a mistake which might be productive of deplorable results. In this he is at once offensive to the element which must suffer for the good of the whole; others accept the changes that may ensue as a result of his tutoring with inexcusable apathy.

A good newspaper is evidence of a city's standing among communities. We cannot deny that the Astorian could be considerably better, speaking more particularly of size. It is the opinion among most people in the city today, people whose prerogative it is to express opinions, that the Astorian is now the best printed and classified news medium that has ever been published in the city. We are already obligated to inaugurate the colored comic supplement in our Sunday editions and to improve the paper through various channels, but our desire to improve will not then be satiated. We aspire to seven columns, to 12 pages, to a 16 and to a 24-page edition on Sunday. It may be that years will elapse before we can accomplish all this. Notwithstanding we are optimistic. The seven-day paper has proved a success, despite the admonitions of half a hundred Molly Pratts. We have kept some of our promises and intend to keep them all. It is a fact that our political policy, or, may we say, our moral policy, differs from the ideas of many. But what are newspapers for—to purvey news, or to further the artifices of corruption and degradation. If a person has sense enough to know the function a newspaper should perform, he will read the paper that gives the news. The Astorian uses the Associated Press telegraphic service—there can be no question as to the thoroughness and authenticity of the stories. The local paper speaks for itself. Deplorable errors have appeared in our columns, so have they in the columns of every paper in the world.

Disaffection has demoralized both armies and cities at critical times. It is entitled to no place in the minds of sensible people and so soon as Astorians determine to remove this bacterium from their grey matter, the city will forge ahead in a manner which will astonish even the sanguine. The itinerant often asks why the large city is inland, and not here. In this particular instance it is because Astoria has been made to suffer from the operations of devouring corporations. But this condition cannot endure for all time. No corporation is infallible. Ultimately a corporation whose object is the furtherance of propositions for the city's good and progress will absorb these outside corporations responsible for its stagnation. But not until Astoria induces the good corporation to come will such tran-

spire. Those who are void of enterprise volunteer that nothing can be done, the city will always be the Astoria of today, the fish will be canned, the lumber mills operated as before, but no other manifestation of prosperity will develop. People who argue thusly should be in Salem, pity forbids suggestion as to the particular abode. A great city can be built at the foot of this wooded peninsula, a city of handsome edifices and on solid ground. If need be the hills can give way to a level tract. Ships flying the flags of every nation can come here, not to call merely and drop off a ton or so of freight, but to discharge entire cargoes upon substantial quays, which can be built. The merchandise can be conveyed to the cars of a great railway which can be built; the city, its terminal. To many this will appear as a fond dream. Because there is a deplorable lack of "go-aheadiveness," or "make-gooditiveness," in many parts of Oregon, is not sufficient excuse for a lack of it here. The population of this city should be at least 150,000. It is a task of years, true, but the start must be made. Give your chamber of commerce support worthy of the body. It will not be a poor move to employ a secretary at a good salary, a man who can answer the queries that now go unanswered. Bring the itinerant with money to your city, take him to a hotel; not a hovel. Point out the real virtues of the city. There is money to be made here in real estate. If a man wishes to buy, give him half a show. It is only fair that he should make something on his investment. The man who buys will be but the forerunner of a hundred. The itinerant will build this city for you, and so soon as you appreciate this the first shovelful of earth will be turned. This is my parting shot to you, Astorians. Read it today and tomorrow. Put this paper away and read it a month hence, or even a year. BLAINE PHILLIPS.

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Steamer Telegraph

LEAVES CALLENDER DOCK, Astoria, for Portland, daily except Friday at 2 P. M. Arrives in Portland at 8:30 P. M.

LEAVES ASTORIA FOR PORTLAND on Sundays at 2:30 P. M. Arrives in Portland at 9:00 P. M.

Leaves Portland, Alder St. Dock, daily except Friday at 7:30 A. M. Leaves Portland on Sundays at 8 A. M.

O. W. S. Navigation Co.

Main Office: Alder St. Dock, Portland, Oregon. Astoria Office: Callender Dock.

North Shore Doings

The Week Across the River by Our Staff Correspondent

Long Beach, Sept. 2.—The season at North Beach is rapidly nearing an end, although the hotel registers do not show any marked falling away the families who have spent the season at the various hotels are rapidly thinning out, and the guest list is made up almost entirely of transients, who stay but a day.

The owners of many cottages have already closed their doors and returned to their various homes. The coming week will probably be filled with farewell parties, as a number of impromptu gatherings are being discussed in honor of various departing favorites.

The Hotel Wickham presented a festive appearance Tuesday evening in honor of Mrs. J. O. Wickham's birthday. Chinese lanterns were used to advantage in decorating the house. The refreshment table was very prettily arranged with sunflowers and small banquet lamps.

A delightful day was spent Monday by a party from Ocean Park. Equipped with an elaborate luncheon, they made the trip to Long Island, in a large sailboat, and returned late in the evening.

A bonfire on the beach entertained the guests at the Salt Air Wednesday evening. Popcorn, fruit and watermelon constituted the refreshments. When the fire had burned low, the guests returned to the house and danced until midnight.

A sailing party, composed entirely of girls, was one of the pleasant affairs of the week at Shoalwater bay. The absence of men at that end of the beach was unnoticed, as half of those in the party attired themselves in their brothers' clothes.

An enjoyable bonfire was given by the guests of the Sweetland Monday night. Candy and peanuts constituted the refreshments.

TRAVELERS' GUIDE.

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